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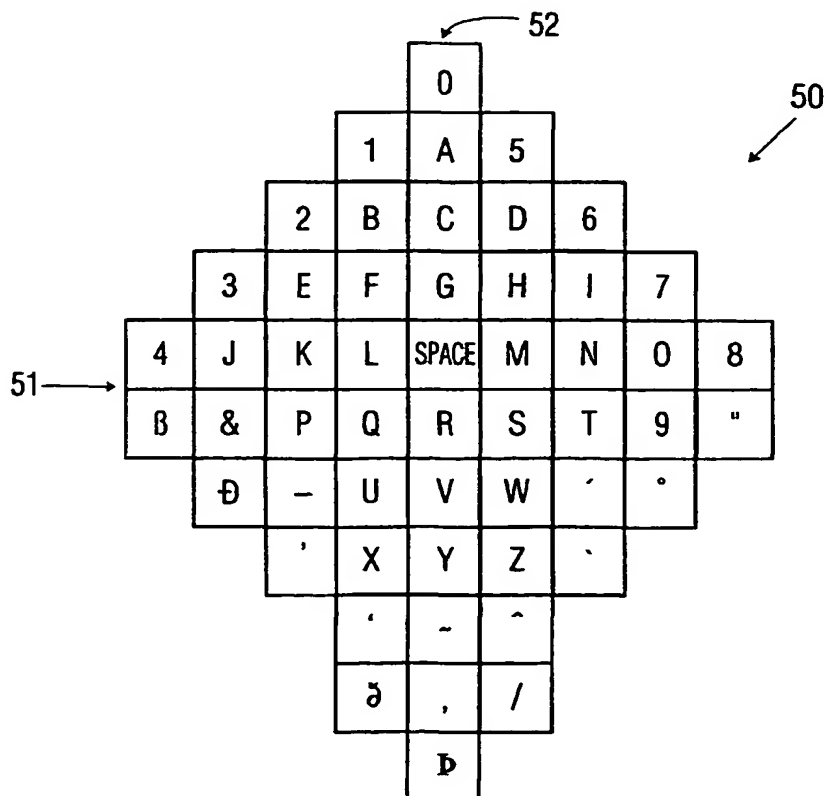
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(54) Title: **KEYBOARD LAYOUT AND METHOD FOR DATA ENTRY**



(57) Abstract: A keyboard layout and a method of data entry utilizing the keyboard layout is provided. In one form, the present invention is a data entry device having a plurality of user selectable keys wherein the keys are arranged about a central point or key such that each key is at a minimum distance from the central point or key relative to each other key. Each key represents a character and/or symbol. In the case of an alphabet, the keys representing the characters of the alphabet may be arranged alphabetically. In another form, the present invention provides a system and method for data entry wherein the distance between input keys or choices of an input device are minimized by providing a central reference point wherein a selection medium returns to the reference point after each input/key selection.

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